

# Executive Proclamation

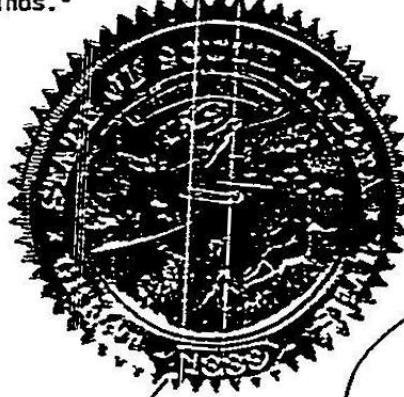
## State of South Dakota Office Of The Governor

WHEREAS, Young children have a disproportionately high fire death rate; and,  
WHEREAS, Children playing with fire are the leading cause of fire deaths among very young children; and,  
WHEREAS, One out of every seven school age children has recently played with fire, and nearly 40% will have played with fire by age 14; and,  
WHEREAS, Matches and lighters are what children playing with fire most often use; and,  
WHEREAS, Children, as well as adults, should be taught that matches and lighters are tools for adult use only; and,  
WHEREAS, About 75% of U.S. residential fires began with a match or lighter; and,  
WHEREAS, Most of the preschool fire deaths occur during daytime hours indicating a lack of supervision; and,  
WHEREAS, Forty percent of all arson arrests are very young juveniles; and,  
WHEREAS, The fire service of South Dakota is dedicated to the safety of life and property from the devastating effects of fire; and,  
WHEREAS, Those members of the fire service are joined by other concerned citizens of South Dakota, as well as businesses, schools, service clubs and organizations, in their fire prevention efforts:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE S. MICKELSON, Governor of the State of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim October 8 through 14, 1989, as

### FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

in South Dakota to commemorate the great Chicago Fire of 1871 which killed 250 persons, left 100,000 homeless, and destroyed more than 17,400 buildings. I also call upon the people of South Dakota to participate in fire prevention activities at home, work and school and to remember as the 1989 Fire Prevention Week theme suggests: "BIG FIRES START SMALL; Keep Matches and Lighters in the Right Hands."



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-Sixth Day of April, in the Year of Our Lord, Nineteen Hundred and Eighty-Nine

GEORGE S. MICKELSON, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

JOYCE HAZELTINE  
JOYCE HAZELTINE, SECRETARY OF STATE

A large, handwritten signature of Joyce Hazelton, the Secretary of State, written over the bottom right corner of the proclamation.